whereby the masonry block mix forms an uncured unit having the shape imparted to it by the mold, the pallet on which the mold rests, and the compression head;

iv) stripping the uncured unit from the mold via the open bottom of the mold by the combined, relative vertical action of the compression head and the pallet with respect to the mold, whereby, after stripping, the uncured unit rests on the pallet unsupported by the mold;

v) transporting the uncured unit to a curing location;

vi) curing the uncured unit at the curing location to create a cured unit;

b) said block body comprising:

i) a generally horizontal upper surface;

ii) a generally horizontal lower surface having a smaller gross area than that of the upper surface;

iii) a generally vertical front surface;

iv) a generally vertical back surface, said front and back surfaces being separated by a distance comprising the depth of the block;

v) a generally vertical first sidewall extending from the front surface to the rear surface, and extending from the upper surface to the lower surface, said first sidewall including a first part that extends away from the front surface at an external angle of less than ninety degrees with respect to the front surface, and a generally planar second part that lies between the sidewall first part and the back surface, and intersects the back surface at an external angle of less than 90 degrees; and

vi) a generally vertical second sidewall opposed to the first sidewall, and extending from the front surface to the back surface, and extending from the upper surface to the lower surface, said second sidewall including a first part that extends away from the front surface at an external angle of less than 90 degrees with respect to the front surface, and a generally planar second part that [joins] lies between the sidewall first part and the back surface, and intersects the back surface at an external angle of less than 90 degrees;

vii) said block body upper surface being formed by the pallet upon which the mold seats during the molding process, and being substantially planar, substantially solid, and substantially continuous across its whole extent from its intersections with the front surface, the back surface, and each sidewall as a result;

viii) said block body lower surface being formed by the compression head during the molding process;

ix) the second parts of the block body sidewalls being formed by the corresponding vertical walls of the mold during the molding process;

x) said block body back surface being formed by corresponding vertical walls of the mold during the molding process;

c) said integral locator lip being formed on the lower surface of the block body and adjacent to the back surface of the block body, and a forwardly facing locking surface which extends below the lower surface of the block body, the depth of said locator lip being the distance between its locking surface and its back surface measured in the plane of the lower surface of the block body, and wherein the ratio of the depth of the block body to the depth of the locator lip is at least about 6:1;

i) wherein the locking surface is formed by a corresponding surface of the compression head during the molding process.

Please insert new claims 84 through 102 as follows:

84. (New) A composite masonry block comprising:

a) a block body, said block body comprising a front surface and a back surface, said front surface and said back surface being substantially parallel to each other and separated by a distance comprising the depth of the block, a generally planar upper surface and a generally planar lower surface, said upper surface and said lower surface being substantially parallel to each other and separated by a distance comprising the height of the block, and opposed first and second sidewall surfaces, said sidewall surfaces adjoining said block upper and lower surfaces, each of said first and second sidewall surfaces comprising a first part and a second part, said sidewall surface first parts extending from said block front surface towards said block back surface, and intersecting the front surface at an angle of ninety degrees or less, said sidewall surface second parts joining their respective sidewall surface first parts and said block back surface, each sidewall surface second part intersecting the back surface at an angle of less than ninety degrees; and

b) a flange formed on said block body, said flange being adapted to engage one or more like blocks in an adjacent course when a plurality of said blocks are laid in successive courses.

85. (New) The composite masonry block of claim 84 wherein the flange is formed so as to extend below the lower surface of the block body, and the lower surface of the block body has a smaller area then the upper surface of the block body.

86. (New) The block of claim 85 wherein the flange includes a rear surface which is an extension of the block back surface.

87. (New) The block of claim 86 wherein the flange extends from the first sidewall to the second sidewall.

88. (New) The block of claim 85 further including one or more cores extending vertically through the block body.

89. (New) The block of claim 88 wherein the one or more cores extend from the lower surface of the block partially through the block body..

90. (New) The block of claim 89 wherein the cores extend from about 60% to about 80% of the block height.

91. (New) The block of claim 90 wherein the sidewall surfaces are generally solid.

92. (New) The block of claim 91 wherein the sidewall surfaces include one or more notches.

93. (New) The block of claim 80 wherein the uniform set back from course to course is greater than zero.

94. (New) A retaining wall block suitable for use in forming a mortarless retaining wall, said block comprising:

a) a pair of substantially parallel and planar upper and lower faces;

b) a front face joining the upper and lower faces, which is substantially perpendicular to the upper and lower faces;

c) a rear face which is substantially perpendicular to the upper and lower faces;

d) a pair of side faces joining the front and rear faces, the side faces being substantially perpendicular to the upper and lower faces and including rearwardly converging portions, wherein a line drawn on the upper face through the points where the rearwardly converging portions begin is substantially parallel to a line drawn through the points where the side faces join the rear face;

e) a flange extending below the lower face of the block, said flange having a rear face which is substantially an extension of the rear face of the block, said flange further including a front locking surface which intersects the lower face of the block; and

f) wherein the upper face is substantially solid and continuous throughout its extent.